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TAGS: KMDR KPAO OIIP OPRC PGOV PREL PK

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: JANUARY 12, 2010

Summary: Coverage of Senators Carl Levin and Al Franken's meeting with Prime Minister Gilani dominated front-page headlines in all mainstream dailies Tuesday morning. Newspapers reported that, during the meeting, PM Gilani underscored the need to bridge the trust deficit between the two countries, urging the U.S. to expedite CSF reimbursements, share drone technology, and remove Pakistan from the list of countries subject to new screening measures. The issue of harassment of U.S. diplomats re-emerged with reports of the Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman's statement that the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad has not requested special privileges for American diplomats at checkpoints and that U.S. diplomats are not being harassed in Pakistan. Negative reaction to new U.S. airport screening regulations continued to receive wide coverage. All major English dailies reported PML-N leader, Ahsan Iqbal's statement that Pakistan should be treated as a partner, not a problem. Dailies also carried statements of Pakistani senators who termed the new security measures an insult to Pakistan. The media reported a wide variety of statements by American military official on progress in Afghanistan and Pakistan. General Petraeus remarked to CNN that considerable pressure has been brought on Al Qaeda leadership. Admiral Mullen echoed signs of progress in both countries, while General McChrystal stated that the U.S. surge in Afghanistan is succeeding. "Daily Times," quoted Secretary Clinton remarks that the "Obama administration has concluded that the best way to pressure Iran to come clean on its nuclear ambitions is to impose sanctions aimed at the country's ruling elite." Some English language papers penned editorials on General Petraeus' comments on possible bombing of Iran's nuclear facilities, calling the remarks "very provocative," and "most irresponsible." "The Business Recorder," in a comment titled "Our tax to GDP ration is indeed abysmal," argued that Ambassador Patterson's remarks to the OICCI in Karachi on the state of Pakistan's economy were correct, but, despite U.S. financial assistance, "demanding military operations" and "increased drone attacks" are not winning the hearts and minds of the Pakistani people. End Summary.

TOP STORIES

News Story: PM Urges U.S. To Bridge Trust Deficit - "Dawn" (01/12)

"Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani called on Monday for U.S. steps to bridge a trust gap in its relations with Pakistan in the interest of long-term strategic partnership. Talking to a U.S. delegation led by Senator Carl Levin, Chairman of U.S. Armed Services Committee, Mr. Gilani reiterated Pakistan's demand for early disbursement of payments under the Coalition Support Fund, transfer of drone technology, sharing of credible and actionable intelligence and removal of Pakistan from the list of countries whose citizens were required to undergo special screening at U.S.

airports. These steps, he said, would improve the public image of U.S. in Pakistan."

News Story: Gilani Deplores U.S. Doubts Over Pak Sincerity - "The News" (01/12)

"Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani on Monday regretted the doubts emanating from the U.S. over Pakistan's sincerity in the war against terror and asked as to which other country of the world has made more sacrifices than Pakistan in the campaign to eradicate terrorism. Talking to the U.S. delegation, led by Senator Carl Levin, Chairman of Armed Services Committee, at the Prime Minister House, Gilani refuted the misperceptions about the existence of the Quetta Shura or the Afghan Taliban leadership in Pakistan. He reiterated Pakistan's desire to fence its border with Afghanistan in case the U.S. could persuade the Afghan government to do so."

News Story: U.S., German Delegations Meet Kayani - "The Nation" (01/12)

"Chairman of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator Carl Levin, has appreciated the services and sacrifices of Pakistan Army in the war against terrorism saying his country would continue its cooperation in this subject. The visiting dignitary, heading a congressional delegation, made these remarks during a meeting with Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani at GHQ on Monday."

News Story: Consider Pakistan A Partner, Not A Problem, PML-N Tells U.S. - "The News" (01/12)

"Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Ahsan Iqbal has said that the United States should consider Pakistan its partner to resolve all issues in the region instead of taking it as a problem. Talking to a U.S. congressional delegation lead by Senator Carl Levin in the Punjab House, Islamabad on Monday, he said the screening process of Pakistani nationals at U.S. airports had created serious reservations in the people of Pakistan. 'The U.S. should avoid taking such measures which could damage trust of the people of Pakistan,' he added."

News Story: Drone Attacks Intensified After Khost Blast: U.S. - "Dawn" (01/12)

"A U.S. general, who oversees America's war efforts in the Pakistan-Afghan region, has acknowledged that there has been an increase in drone attacks at suspected militant targets inside Fata since the assassination last month of seven CIA agents. Separately, the U.S. Military Chief has said that a relationship with Pakistan is 'absolutely critical' to the United States and that's why he has invested so much in grooming up this relationship. 'We don't talk about the source of the explosions in western Pakistan. But certainly, many commentators have noted the considerable pressure that has been brought on the leadership, in particular, of Al Qaeda and also of some other important extremist elements there,'" Gen. David Petraeus told CNN when asked if the United States had increased drone attacks inside FATA after the CIA blast."

News Story: No Deal With U.S. Over Checking Of Americans - "The Nation," "The Post" (01/12)

"Foreign Office spokesman Abdul Basit has categorically denied that he has received any request from the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad with regard to special privileges for American diplomats at checkpoints set up across the country for security reason. Talking to a private TV channel, Basit said American officials and diplomats are not being harassed in Pakistan but there are some issues on which they were in touch with the U.S. government and their Embassy in Islamabad."

#### TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

News Story: AfPak Strategy Greatest Challenge: Mullen - "The Nation" (01/12)

"Executing the President's strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan presents his biggest challenge, said the Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff. However, Navy Admiral Mike Mullen said he sees

progress being made in both countries."

News Story: U.S. Surge In Afghanistan Succeeding: McChrystal - "The News" (01/12)

"The commander of NATO troops in Afghanistan said on Monday that a U.S. troop build-up in Afghanistan had started to turn the tide against the Taliban. 'We have been at this for about seven months now and I believe we have made progress,' General Stanley McChrystal said in an interview with ABC Television. But he added: 'It is not a completed mission yet.'"

News Story: U.S. Rushing More Drones To Afghanistan: Report - "The Nation" (01/12)

"The increasing number of U.S. drones over Afghanistan are producing so much video intelligence that military analysts are finding it hard to keep up, a leading American newspaper reported Monday. Air Force drones collected nearly three times as much video over Afghanistan and Iraq last year as in 2007 - about 24 years' worth if watched continuously, the New York Times said in a dispatch. That volume is expected to multiply in the coming years as drones are added to the fleet and as some start using multiple cameras to shoot in many directions."

News Story: U.K., U.S. Officials' Visits Criticized In Senate: Call For Judicial Probe Into Karachi Incidents - "Dawn" (01/12)

"Senators called on Monday for a judicial inquiry into the Karachi attack on an Ashura procession and subsequent acts of arson and loot and target killings and expressed concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in the city.... Mian Raza Rabbani of the ruling Pakistan People's Party stunned the house when he condemned frequent visits to Islamabad by American and British officials, like Richard Holbrooke and David Miliband, and termed their statements as interference in internal affairs of the country. He asked the Foreign Office to take notice of such statements which infringed on the independence and sovereignty of Pakistan. Mr. Rabbani and Deputy Chairman of Senate Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali moved an adjournment motion condemning harsh security checks introduced by the United States at its airports for citizens of several countries, including Pakistan. They called upon the government to give a matching response to the humiliating steps introduced for Pakistanis travelling to the U.S."

News Story: Pay U.S. In The Same Coin, Senators Demand - "The Nation" (01/12)

"The Senate members also expressed great concern over the enhanced screening procedures including full-body pat-downs and extra hand luggage searches for Pakistanis flying to America and called for the similar treatment with the U.S. nationals. The members were of the view that such a treatment is tantamount to insult to the whole nation and the country."

News Story: Complete Shutter Down In Quetta - "The Nation" (01/12)

"A complete shutter-down and wheel jam strike was observed in Hub town while protest rallies were taken out in different districts of Balochistan by Baloch nationalist parties and student organizations to protest the alleged target killings of Baloch in Karachi allegedly by Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM)."

News Story: Six NATO Troops Killed In Afghanistan - "Daily Times" (01/12)

"Six members of the NATO-led military force in Afghanistan were killed on Monday in battles with Taliban insurgents and a roadside bomb attack, making it one of the bloodiest days for foreign troops in months."

News Story: Troops Kill Eight Taliban In South Waziristan - "Daily Times" (01/12)

"Security forces on Monday killed eight Taliban while a soldier was martyred in clashes with terrorists in the ongoing operation in South Waziristan, according to the Inter-Services Public Relations."

News Story: Moot Urges U.S. To Hold Talks With Taliban - "Daily Times" (01/12)

"Speakers at a seminar on Monday said the U.S. should negotiate with the Taliban before it ended up in another Vietnam-like situation. According to a press release issued by the Pakistan Institute of National Affairs (PINA), Lahore, the seminar was attended by a number of retired army officers, political personalities and citizens."

#### POLITICAL ISSUES

News Story: World Talks On Afghanistan, Pakistan Today - "Daily Times" (01/12)

"Delegations from 40 nations will meet in Abu Dhabi today (Tuesday) to discuss the problems currently being faced by Afghanistan and Pakistan, an Emirati official said on Monday. The official said the Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Jordan, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates would also attend the gathering."

News Story: Row In NA Over 'Fight-Back' By Zardari - "Dawn" (01/12)

"The government and the opposition crossed swords over a perceived political fight back by President Asif Ali Zardari at the start of a National Assembly session on Monday after both sides agreed to put off a debate on Karachi violence until Wednesday."

#### ECONOMY/ENVIRONMENT

News Story: Pakistan Expects \$1.8 Bn From Fodp By June: Tarin - "The News" (01/12)

"Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin has said Pakistan expects to get U.S. \$1.8 billion by June this year. 'We are gradually and slowly receiving pledges and commitments from the Friends of Democratic Pakistan and by June 2010, we will get U.S. \$1.8 billion,' he said while addressing a press conference at the Ministry of Finance in Islamabad on Monday."

News Story: Terminally Ill Pak Steel Displays Might Of Corruption In Pakistan - "The News" (01/12)

"Corruption has been taken to new heights in Pakistan as Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani's government has allowed key accused persons in corruption cases worth billions of rupees registered by his own government to continue managing the affairs of the collapsing and bankrupt Pakistan Steel. The business group accused by the government investigators of causing billions of rupees of losses to the national institution has not been blacklisted or even barred from doing business with Pakistan Steel."

News Story: Steel Mills Corruption Being Legalized - "The News" (01/12)

"Top secret official documents to be unfolded in the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet here Tuesday (today), reveal how conveniently a 'clean chit' was now quietly being given to the dismissed top management of the Pakistan Steel Mills (PSP) by none other than Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani on corruption charges. The PSP, according to these papers, had earned a profit of Rs2.4 billion in 2007-2008 but suffered a mind-boggling loss of Rs20 billion in the following year (2008-2009)."

News Story: Gas Supply To Textile Units Stopped - "Dawn" (01/12)

"Textile mills and other production units in Punjab and the NWFP are facing a grim situation because of the suspension of supply of natural gas by the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Ltd (SNGPL). Criticizing the suspension, chairman of the Punjab chapter of the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association Gohar Ejaz called for direct intervention of the Federal Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources and restoration of gas supply."

#### MISCELLANEOUS

News Story: Fake Passports Issued To Indians By Mission In Houston - "Dawn" (01/12)

"Pakistan's Consul General in the U.S. city of Houston appeared in an accountability court in Rawalpindi on Monday as a witness and confirmed that fake Pakistani passports had been issued to Indian citizens."

News Story: U.S. On Verge Of Iran Sanctions, Says Clinton - "Daily Times" (01/12)

"The Obama administration has concluded that the best way to pressure Iran to come clean on its nuclear ambitions is to impose sanctions aimed at the country's ruling elite, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said on Monday."

#### EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

Editorial: Our Tax To GDP Ratio Is Indeed Abysmal, an editorial in the country's premier business newspaper, "Business Recorder" (cir. 25,000) (01/12)

"Patterson reiterated the Obama administration's commitment to the development of Pakistan - a strategy considered to be targeted towards ending fundamentalism and terrorism. She added that the U.S. government was working closely with farmers on a cost-sharing basis to replace or repair 11000 tube wells in the country as well as underwriting several significant quick-impacting energy projects. The U.S. public and private investment in Pakistan is considerable, especially in comparison to other countries. And yet few in this country endorse the drone attacks or indeed what they perceive as American intransigence in insisting that the Pakistani armed forces take on the Haqqani group in North Waziristan - or the Taliban, who are targeting Afghanistan and not Pakistan. This makes it evident that the U.S. strategy of extending financial assistance on the one hand and demanding military operations on their targets, on the other, coupled with increased drone attacks is not winning the hearts and minds of the people of this country. Perhaps, financial assistance, coupled with military assistance on the same pattern as that provided by Bush to India may help to placate the people of this country."

Editorial: President Zardari's Appeal Against Terrorism, an editorial in the Peshawar-based Urdu-language daily "Mashriq" (cir. 55,000) (01/12)

"During the course of the ongoing war on terror, the U.S.-Britain alliance has assumed the status of a very dangerous and organized imperialism. In Pakistan, U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson enjoys more freedom in her movements than the envoys of our brotherly Muslim countries. Due to her unrestricted strolls in the corridors of power as well as in other political powerhouses in the country, including Nine-Zero in Karachi and Raiwind in Lahore, majority of Pakistani people consider her the reminiscent of the viceroys during the 'British Raj' in the Sub-continent. On the other hand, the U.S. has made it mandatory for the Pakistani air travelers to undergo an intense body-screening at its airports. We think that the indomitability of China, North Korea and Iran must serve as a model for our rulers in order to get rid of the American high-handedness."

Editorial: Threats On The Afghan Border, an editorial in the Lahore-based independent Urdu daily "Din" (cir. 5000) (01/10)

"It is not surprising if President Zardari is demanding that the Pak-Afghan border be secured. Heroin, Kalashnikov, anti-human jihad and illegal trade have all entered Pakistan through this border.... Pakistan forces have made full-fledged efforts to stop the movement of terrorists along the Afghan border. For this purpose, Pakistan has built 189 check-posts along the border even where the terrain is difficult to navigate. On the other hand, Afghan and Allied forces' check-posts are only a few dozen in number. There have also been some reports that India is involved in creating unrest and instability in Pakistan through Afghanistan. The international community must give serious thought to President Zardari's demand if it wants to save the region from a new crisis, and wants more cooperation from Pakistan."

Editorial: "David Petraeus' Remarks, And The Point To Understand, an editorial in the liberal Urdu daily "Express" (cir. 25,000) (01/10)

"According to David Petraeus' strange logic, while the Al Qaeda leadership is shifting from South Asia to Yemen, Pakistan and Afghanistan's tribal areas will remain the terrorist hub. This shows that American policymakers are not serious in withdrawing troops from Afghanistan, and they will continue to create problems in Pakistan's tribal areas. [In contrast] what is actually needed is an improvement in monitoring the routes Al Qaeda members and terrorists use to go from one place to another. Al Qaeda can be dealt a severe blow if these routes are checked thoroughly. The U.S. should pay attention to this important point."

Editorial: General Petraeus' Threats: OIC Should Wake Up, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (01/12)

"U.S. CENTCOM Chief General Petraeus has said that the focus of U.S. war on terror are the tribal areas between Afghanistan and Pakistan, not Yemen.... It was only by declaring the war on terror a Crusade that Bush secured the support of more than two dozen Christian states.... Islamic countries and the OIC need to be cautious in this scenario. OIC should unite the Muslim countries to fight these conspiracies."

Editorial: The 'What Ifs', an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (01/12)

"The world is awash with 'what ifs' and our part of it rather more than many others. The plethora of conspiracy theories that swirl around our ankles are a subset of the 'what if' school of thought, and now we have General Petraeus diving in. He tells CNN in an interview aired on Sunday that Iran's nuclear facilities...'can be bombed.'.... The aftershocks, were the U.S. to bomb Iranian nuclear facilities, may well trigger the definitive break between it and the Muslim world. One might wonder if the 'what ifs' of that scenario have been the subject of a table-top exercise or computer modeling."

Editorial: U.S. Adventurism, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (01/12)

"A most irresponsible statement has come from General Petraeus, head of U.S. Central Command, in which he has declared that Iran's nuclear sites can be bombed and that the Pentagon has plans for such a contingency.... With such adventurism coming from the CENTCOM Commander, the political route of dialogue with Iran already stands undermined."

Editorial: An Unwise Petraeus, an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (01/12)

"General David Petraeus, who heads the U.S. Central Command overseeing U.S. forces in the Middle East, Gulf, and Central Asia, has made a very provocative statement regarding Iran.... It is usually said that war is too serious a business to be left to the generals. The same could be said of politics, which should not be left to the generals either. General Petraeus has proved this point.... The U.S. should work towards solving the issue through diplomacy. An aggressive posture by the U.S. is bound to push the world into chaos and disaster."

Editorial: Serious Implications Of Bombing Iran's N-Sites, an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (01/12)

"Head of the U.S. Central Command General David Petraeus told CNN television that his country can bomb Iranian nuclear sites and has considered the impacts of any action taken there. Though it is an open secret that the United States has serious reservations about Iranian nuclear program but it is for the first time that a top U.S. Commander has hurled naked threat of this kind. This shocking statement clearly points out that Washington is bent upon making mischief and its misadventure could further imperil the already fragile peace in the region.... It, however, appears that the United

States is eager to find excuses to trigger a wider and deeper conflict in the region to advance its nefarious designs."

Editorial: Possibility of U.S. Military Intervention in Yemen, an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro-Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (01/12)

"It seems that for the time being the U.S. and its closest ally Britain have postponed the idea of undertaking any adventure in Yemen. Due to the fast-deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan, Washington badly needs the Pakistan army's help to get out of this quagmire. After military actions against Afghanistan and Pakistan, the U.S. designs against Yemen must be an eye-opener for the Muslim world. We think it is high time for the Muslims to forge unity to foil the American conspiracies."

Editorial: Use Of The Word Allah, an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (cir. 10,000) (01/12)

"According to an AFP report, angry protestors set another two churches on fire in Malaysia on Sunday. The reason for this anger is that according to some people, non-Muslims cannot use the term "Allah.".... One verse of the Holy Quran enjoins Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him):" Ask the non-believers Who created the earth and the skies, and they will cry out, 'It is Allah.' If [the Holy Quran] permitted the non-believers of Makkah to call the Creator "Allah," what is the justification of stopping non-Muslims from using this term?"

Opinion: McCain's Visit, A Letter to the Editor by Brig (Retd) Liaqat Ali in the Lahore-based liberal English daily "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (01/12)

"The leader of the visiting four member delegation of American Congress, Senator John McCain has stated that drone strikes are an important tool in the overall U.S. strategy for victory and that they have been very effective so far.... The Senator's 'proven effective tool' of drone strikes will do no less, he may rest assured. I am compelled to say this because the minimum damage to innocent civilians (which he indirectly admits is caused by his country's drones) does have the potential to germinate a desperate urge for revenge in the hearts of the surviving kith and kin of those innocent victims. And some part of what is fashionably called 'terrorism' in today's political jargon, does originate from this urge for revenge. This is the reason that America must reconsider her strategy of using drone strikes as a tool for winning the global war on terror."

Opinion: U.S. Barricades Itself Into Self-Imposed Siege! Ominous Beginning For New Year 2010!, an op-ed by Wajid Naeemuddin in the country's premier business newspaper, "Business Recorder" (cir. 25,000) (01/12)

"The new security measures will increase by a factor of hundreds (maybe thousands), the resentment ordinary people will feel as they are subjected to hours' long delays at airports, as well as the humiliation of a body search by prying and intrusive hands. It is in such an environment of pervasive hatred that the germs of terrorism are born and thrive. America appears to be unmindful of the fact that the restrictions of this kind are a two-edged sword and have an unpleasant, both-ways impact.... By such Draconian measures, America is increasingly putting itself under a self-imposed siege and is itself getting a taste of the deprivation of freedom imposed in the recent past on dozens of Asian and African countries, through colonization and exploitation of every kind which has been a prerogative of the West.... Perhaps the biggest blow dealt to date to the American dream of subduing Afghan resistance was struck on 29 December 2009, when a CIA base in Afghanistan - the holy of holies in terms of security - was penetrated by one, who was ostensibly working for CIA, the powerful, biggest-ever, clandestine-operations-specialist, super-secret American organisation. Humam Khalil Abu-Mulal Al Balawi hated America for its anti-Muslim policies and actions and struck when he saw his long-awaited chance to deal a deadly blow aimed at CIA's very heart."

Opinion: When Will They Learn?, an op-ed by Shaima Sumaya in the

Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (01/12)

"The Pakistani people in millions have no voice, no say, not even a ripple effect in the running of the State. They must be provided that. Pakistan must be run to their wishes and not to the wishes of a political royalty. Most Pakistanis are enraged and offended by the U.S. intervention in Pakistan. When the question was asked that will Barak Obama's election boost democracy in Pakistan? Pakistanis responded that any President means the same to them as the U.S. threatens Pakistan's sovereignty. The "educated and moderate" class of Pakistanis said that how can the U.S. be of any help to Pakistan when they are in debt of U.S. \$13 trillion and have a budget deficit of U.S. \$1 trillion FY 2009? However, it is essential that Pakistan act like a responsible nation and assist the U.S. in the 'War on Terror' without compromising their sovereignty, which it is at the moment."

Opinion: Obama: Rhetoric Vs Reality, an op-ed by Dr. Maleeha Lodhi in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (01/12)

"In the transition from a powerful orator of soaring campaign rhetoric to the real world of tough policy choices, questions were raised about whether Obama had the determination to pursue the agenda he had set. And priorities there were aplenty, inviting the charge that he had scattered his focus. Critics portrayed him as a leader good at launching initiatives but inconsistent in executing or making them work. Meanwhile, his "lenient" treatment of bankers in the financial bailout, failure to close down Guantanamo and watering down of the healthcare plan evoked dismay within the Democratic base, amid cries of betrayal of the 'transformational agenda.' This was exemplified by an editorial in the New Republic which said: 'A presidency that was born in enthusiasm has displayed little evidence of it' in the first year."

Opinion: Lessons We Must Learn, an op-ed by Rahimullah Yusufzai in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (01/12)

"There are lessons to be learnt from the recent suicide bombing at the secret CIA station in Afghanistan's Khost province bordering Pakistan's North Waziristan tribal region.... It showed how widespread the animosity is among Muslims against the U.S. given its policies and explained the way Islamic militants transcending borders are increasingly joining hands to fight what they perceive as a common enemy.... It should worry the U.S. and its allies that Muslims the world over find it difficult to trust western nations. This is benefiting the militants and providing justification to their cause. The CIA agents were attacked because they were directing U.S. drone attacks that kill some Al Qaeda and Taliban members and many more civilians in Pakistan's tribal areas. The fact that Islamic militants from different countries and cultures have been planning and conducting joint operations against western targets should be a matter of concern for the U.S. and its friends. There should be some soul-searching on the part of all sides to the conflict to think of other and preferably peaceful options instead of embarking on revenge and continuing this vicious circle of death and destruction."

Opinion: History Of The U.S. Afghan War, an op-ed by Arif Ayub in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (01/12)

"Normally, one would expect a history to be written after the war is over but the unusual step by the U.S. military basically illustrates the strength of the U.S. institutions and the resilience of its system. All bureaucracies make mistakes and the larger the bureaucracy the bigger the mistake.... The history is a remarkable document that provides an extremely frank assessment of the U.S. war effort in Afghanistan; however, it suffers from a basic flaw that it is essentially a military document and guerrilla warfare which requires a political strategy.... There is a failure to admit that the U.S. troops have essentially become sandbags for the Northern Alliance. The objectives of counter terrorism and nation building should never have been allowed to morph into a counter insurgency operation. The security interests of Iran and Pakistan have been completely ignored."

Opinion: One Day We All Will Be Terrorists!, an op-ed by Dr. Haider Mehdi in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (01/12)

"What we need is a revolutionary political leadership in this country. We deserve a change in the political mindset and political conduct of this nation's leaders. We need fresh leadership in Pakistan. We all do not need to be politically loyal to our contemporary political dispensation or to our present political allies. We must completely reject a global political system of U.S./West's dominance. We all ought to be political dissidents! After all, dissent is a vital element of the democratic political process. It is a duty of an engaged citizenry! One day we all might be considered terrorists by our western 'friends.' Never mind. So be it!"

Opinion: A New Terrorist Orient, an op-ed by Shahbaz Ahmed Cheema in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (01/12)

"Identity of individuals in this modern age is dependent on their citizenship/nationality, which is being represented by passports. So the passport is one of the very important identity markers in our world.... One may ask that there are so many countries which have not been included in that list and is this not sufficient to show that this list has been prepared after extensive research and analysis. Issue is not this that many countries have not been in the list rather it is that why the whole population of any single country is being portrayed as possessing same capacities and potential just because of their geographical identity based on passport. To me, it is not less than shaping and constructing of a 'New Terrorist Orient.'"

Opinion: Quadrilateral Ties, an op-ed by Shahid Javed Burki in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (01/12)

"One important component of the developing global structure is the evolving relationship among four countries: China, India, Pakistan and the U.S. Three of these countries are in Asia, the fourth is still the only superpower in the global economic and political systems. The most important of these relations are between the U.S. and China, between India and China, between India and the U.S., between Pakistan and the U.S. and between India and Pakistan. Each of these has its own dynamics. That said they together form a quadrilateral relationship that is inherently unstable. The challenge for these countries is to bring about stability to this relationship in a way that it serves the interest of all four countries.... The quadrilateral relationship can become stable if the four countries sit around the table - a G-4 arrangement - to work out how they can move forward so that none is hurt and all benefit."

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)  
Patterson